



Making Tracks
Missouri Department of Conservation
2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304
www.conservation.state.mo.us

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**August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area
Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center
Rockwoods Reservation**



Making Tracks

March 2003 Volume 03, Number 3

Conservation Careers

By David Knisley, Private Land Conservationist

Nature center visitors, hunters, teachers, concerned parents seeking advice for a child and many others often ask about conservation careers. The question is usually something like, "How does one become a conservationist?" The Missouri Department of Conservation is not the only employer of conservationists. Similar agencies in other states, other agencies in Missouri, private institutions and a few private industries employ conservationists.

When seeking a career in conservation, one is urged to select a good college, do well with grades, get some experience even if it is volunteer work, be willing to move and concentrate on communication skills. There are often more applicants than jobs but conservation careers provide many rewards and a modest income. No one is practicing a conservation career for the money. These professionals are committed to providing a service to people and to the betterment of the resource. An informative booklet titled *Conservation Careers* is available at most MDC locations.

Six MDC career fields are explained below, but they are adaptable to most potential employers.

Conservation Agents are the local contacts or general representatives of the Department of Conservation in most counties or regions in Missouri. Their primary responsibility is to enforce the laws relating to fish and wildlife. They also provide fish, forest and wildlife management recommendations to landowners, administer the hunter safety program and provide information and education programs to local groups. A bachelor's degree is required.

Wildlife Biologists conduct research and manage habitat. Specialized research biologists determine the needs and status of wildlife. Management biologists manipulate and manage habitat on public land and make recommendations to private landowners. A bachelor's degree in wildlife management is required.

Fisheries Biologists conduct aquatic research and manage aquatic habitat. Some fisheries biologists manage fish hatchery operations. They strive to make sure good fishing opportunities are available for people. They also advise landowners who have ponds or streams on their property. A bachelor's degree in fisheries management is required.

Foresters guide and coordinate the management of forest resources. They conduct inventories of forest resources and guide the harvest and planting of trees. They recommend measures for the control of insect and disease problems and the prevention and suppression of forest fires. Some foresters specialize in urban forestry. A bachelor's degree in forestry is required.

Private Land Conservationists utilize general skills of the wildlife biologist, fisheries biologist and forester as they provide resource management advice to private landowners. When necessary, they request the assistance of the specialized biologist (fisheries, forestry or wildlife) but the PLCs usually provide the necessary information requested by private landowners. As with the other management fields, a bachelor's degree in one of the resource management fields is required.

Interpretive Naturalists and **Conservation Educators** coordinate interpretative programs and facilities and provide training for teachers and youth leaders. They coordinate guided hikes, lectures and workshops for all age groups. They also plan and maintain exhibits, trail guides, interpretative literature, newsletters like this one and audiovisual items. A bachelor's degree in biology, zoology, botany, environmental education or a related field is required.

In a way, you may already be a conservationist! Conservation is a philosophy or a way of life, based on common values and a concern for the future. It means using resources wisely or in such a way that we can have some for future use. It means living in harmony with ecological laws and sharing limited natural resources in an equitable way. If you share this philosophy, you are truly a conservationist. You can practice it in your career, your hobbies and at home. It takes all of us working together to ensure resource use and enjoyment for the future.



Making Tracks

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Volunteer Milestones

*Thanks for all your
effort and help!*

Busch Conservation Area

Ed Leutwiler.....300 hours
Madolena Key.....400 hours
Margaret McGregor...1300 hours

Powder Valley Nature Center

Etta May Eagle..... 2300 hours
Doris Peters.....300 hours
Bernadette Sieving..200 hours

Rockwoods Reservation

Karen Kelly.....3200 hours
Richard Mehringer.1750 hours
Sally Roberts.....625 hours
John Ruprecht.....475 hours

News from

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

No More Mowing?

By Tamie Yegge, Nature Center Manager

Interested in less mowing? Do you live in an area where folks won't complain if your grass gets higher than 6 inches? You might consider converting your fescue to native grasses and forbs. There are huge benefits to doing this, much less mowing being on the top of that list!

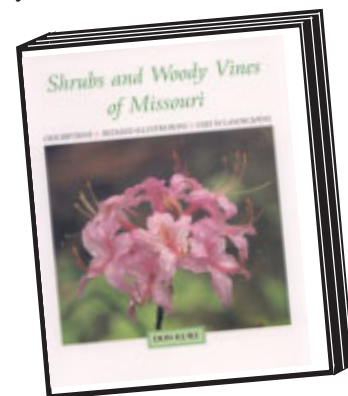
Fescue, itself, is not very useful to wildlife, particularly when we mow it down to lawn height. When we have a mowed lawn, we tend to want it relatively weed-free, which requires herbicides or a lot of hand work. It also requires watering during the dry season and applying fertilizer to keep it healthy. What if you didn't need any of that and wildlife could benefit at the same time? It's really not that difficult....

With proper site preparation, which includes killing off the fescue over the course of a summer, a native grass and forb mix can be installed over the winter months to replace the fescue. These natives put a lot of energy into their root systems the first year, so be patient (an annual, like oats, can be put in the mix to prevent erosion for the first year).

After two or three years, however, you will have a relatively maintenance-free "lawn!" The only thing you will need to do after that is mow once a year. This will keep down the "litter" of dead stalks that are left each winter.

If your neighbors are apprehensive, let them know the benefits and offer to mow the perimeter of your area so it looks more manicured. Education is your best defense. Who knows, they may

decide to do it too! You can get more information about planting natives to replace your fescue by calling the nature center or log onto our website, www.conservation.state.mo.us and enter "fescue conversion" in the search window. Just think, you may never have to mow again!



What better way to spend a winter afternoon...

than perusing the pages of MDC's *Shrubs and Woody Vines of MO*. An excellent book for homeowners or botanists, "Shrubs and Woody Vines of Missouri" provides detailed descriptions and illustrations of 170 species of native and non-native shrubs and vines that grow wild in Missouri. Methods for planting and propagation are included. During March, Powder Valley is featuring this book at a 20% savings. The special price will be \$9.60. No additional discounts apply.

11715 Cragwold Road
Kirkwood, MO 63122
(314) 301-1500

LOCATION:

From I-44 east in Kirkwood, take Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road.

AREA HOURS:

Daylight Saving Time:
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Central Standard Time:
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

NATURE CENTER HOURS:

Open all year, 7 days a week, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

GIFT SHOP HOURS:

Open all year, 7 days a week, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ABOUT THE AREA:

112 acres of forestland and winding creeks, three hiking trails (one wheelchair accessible). Open to visitors free of charge.



March Resident Artisans

Nancy and Laura Confer
Applehead Doll Demonstration

Saturday, March 15 in the Lobby 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Powder Valley is pleased to welcome returning Resident Artisans Nancy and Laura Confer. Nancy and Laura will be demonstrating the changing of a plain apple into the face of a wrinkly old character. Join the Confers as they relate the history of the applehead doll.

Each applehead doll is authentically crafted in the technique that Nancy learned from her grandma and has passed down to Laura. Each applehead doll is authentically crafted, as if made in her grandma's childhood days of the late 1800s. They begin by peeling the apple and carving out facial features that will form the crinkly face. The appleheads are then hung to air dry. They have wire-framed bodies wrapped with cotton and fabric scraps. Each applehead doll is lovingly dressed in an old-fashioned, handmade outfit. When dressed, the dolls almost become lifelike.

Stop by and listen to the history of applehead dolls. Watch as Nancy and Laura share with you their family tradition of making applehead dolls. You may even want to try your hand at creating an applehead doll yourself.



The Educators' Niche

By Barb Sandhagen, Education Programs Coordinator

Show-Me Conservation Outdoor Classroom Grants

Are you interested in improved learning? Have you tried using instruction through conservation and environmental education outdoors? It seems many of you have, as interest in the *Show-Me Conservation Outdoor Classroom Grant* program keeps growing and growing!

The *Show-Me Conservation Outdoor Classroom Grants* fund the development, maintenance and ongoing use of outdoor learning sites, either on school grounds or at a nearby location. The grant program is a joint initiative of the Missouri Department of Conservation Office of Environmental Education, which provides funding and administration; the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation, which provides funding from the sales of conservation license plates; and MDC Conservation Education Consultants, who provide ongoing, direct assistance to schools.

Applications for the **2003-2004 Show-Me Conservation Outdoor Classroom Grants** from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) Office of Environmental Education were sent to school administrators in mid-November. The deadline for submitting applications to the Office of Environmental Education for the 2003-04 school year is April 4, 2003. Two types of Outdoor Classroom grants will be available again, the Development Grant and the Enhancement Grant.

The **Development Grant** offers a maximum of **\$2,500** and requires a 20 percent match from the school, district or community in the form of cash or in-kind service. This grant is intended for large projects, including the development of outdoor learning areas. It can also be used for improvements or extensions to an existing outdoor classroom.

The **Enhancement Grant** provides up to **\$500** and a match is not required. This grant is intended for small projects that may include the development of small-scale outdoor learning areas, such as a butterfly garden. The grant may also be used to repair or replace equipment in an existing outdoor classroom. Other possibilities include enhancing a site with additional plantings or other habitat components or supplementing curriculum for integrating the use of an outdoor classroom. A school is not required to have an outdoor classroom prior to applying for this grant.

Both grant type applicants are required to arrange a site visit with their local Conservation Education Consultant prior to submitting the grant application. All applications also need to be signed by your local Conservation Education Consultant. If you do not know the consultant for your school, please check the reference box on this page or call the St. Louis Regional Office at (636) 441-4554 ext. 0 for their name and number.



St. Louis Region

Conservation Education Consultants

Barb Sandhagen - Education Programs Coordinator
(314) 301-1500 ext. 2242

Liz Lyons - Education Consultant (314) 231-3803

Nancy Snider - Education Consultant
(636) 441-4554 ext. 245

David Bruns - Education Consultant
(636) 458-2236 ext. 35

the Outdoor Teacher

The Outdoor Teacher Education Resource Center

Hours:

Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

(closed 11 a.m. - Noon for lunch)

1926 S. 12th St.

St. Louis, MO 63104

(314) 231-3803



BUSCH RANGE

Hours for March 2003:

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday-Tuesday
Closed Wednesday & Thursday

For more information,
call (636) 441-4554 ext. 251



HENGES RANGE

Hours for March 2003:

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday

Closed Monday & Tuesday,
Special Events & Holidays

For more information,
call (636) 938-9548

News from
August A. **Busch** Memorial Conservation Area

Wetlands For Kids

Some folks call them swamps, others call them sloughs, or marshes, but whatever we call them, they are areas where soils normally are saturated or covered with water. Wetlands are among the world’s most productive, yet delicate, ecosystems in the world! Their value to countless species of wildlife is surpassed by no other type of habitat. Wetlands provide many important benefits to the environment and provide endless hours of outdoor enjoyment for people, in activities such as bird watching and waterfowl hunting.

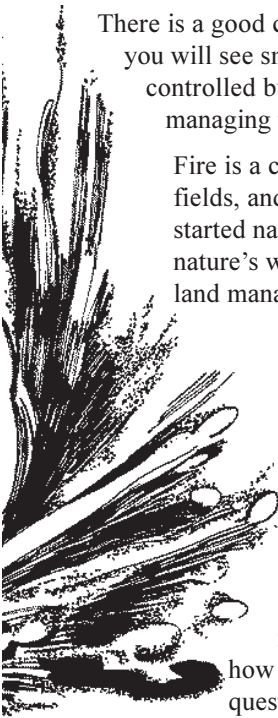
Wetlands have been drained and destroyed in alarming numbers over the last 50 years. Surveys indicate that more than *half* of the wetlands in the United States have been lost as a result of what people do — drainage and filling, siltation, pollution and alterations for developments, for example. Only within the last few years has there been increased understanding of the values of this natural resource. Wetland protection and restoration is certainly one of conservation’s biggest challenges today.🐾

You can help!
How? By attending this year’s “Wetlands for Kids” event!

“Wetlands for Kids” is sponsored by Ducks Unlimited, the Monsanto Fund and the Missouri Department of Conservation. You’ll get hands-on information about waterfowl species; even learn how to call in ducks from the pros! You’ll also watch retrievers at work, learn what lives in a wetland, learn to fly fish and cook outdoors (maybe even sneak a sample!) and much, much more! Most importantly, you’ll receive a membership to the Ducks Unlimited *Greenwings*. As a member, you’ll get quarterly magazines to update you on important wetland news. Mark your calendar for the “Wetlands for Kids” event; you’ll be glad you did! The event will be held **April 5** at the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area in St. Charles from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Where There’s Smoke There’s Fire

By Gary L. Calvert, Resource Technician



There is a good chance that if you visit one of the conservation areas in the spring or fall you will see smoke. Do not be alarmed, it is very likely that what you are seeing is a controlled burn. Fire is used as a tool to assist the land management staff with managing the different habitat types on the Areas.

Fire is a cost-effective tool used to manage native warm-season grasses and old fields, and to control exotic species. Years ago, before the area was inhabited, fire started naturally by means of lightning strikes and was not controlled. This was nature’s way of regenerating itself. Today, these fires must be re-created by the land management staff in a controlled environment. The results of these fires are renewed plant vigor and plant diversity. Fire, while it may look devastating, gives the wildlife fresh, nutrient-rich food. The older, less nutrient-rich growth will be consumed by the fire and the black soil warms fast and stimulates early lush plant growth.

The staff who conduct these burns are highly trained and must have many years of experience. All of the burns must have an approved burn plan that consists of the burn objective, needed weather conditions, risk assessments and a list of personnel and equipment needed to conduct the burn. If any of the approved burn plan conditions are not met, the burn will not be conducted.

If you visit one of the Conservation Areas and see smoke, feel free to go to the office and obtain some information about burning. The Private Land Conservationists conduct classes to teach private landowners how to burn and will assist landowners by loaning the equipment used to conduct prescribed burns. If you have questions about burning or future classes on burning, please call the St. Louis Regional Office at (636) 441-4554.🐾

**2360 Highway D
St. Charles, MO
63304
(636) 441 - 4554**

LOCATION:

From Hwy 40, take 94 south to Hwy. D; turn west on D for approx. 1 mile.
From I-70, take 94/First Capitol exit; turn south on Hwy. 94 to Hwy. D; turn west on D for approx. 1 mile. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy. D.

HOURS:

Area is open from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. See area regulations for special hunt hours. Fishing hours are from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. Rental boats are available April 1 through September 30. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. It is closed some state holidays.

ABOUT THE AREA:

6,987 acres with 32 lakes and 40 ponds totaling 526 acres of water for fishing. There are six viewing blinds (two are wheelchair accessible), seven hiking trails totaling 5 miles, picnic area, staffed firearms range, and fishing jetties (some are wheelchair accessible). The area has interpretive programs, exhibits and demonstration sites and is used by bicyclists.

News from
Rockwoods Reservation

Glade Restoration

By Erin Connett, Naturalist

Glades are rocky, dry areas with a very thin layer of topsoil over thick bedrock, usually having stunted trees or lacking trees altogether. You can usually find glades on south-facing slopes in most woodland forests. Several species of grasses, forbs and animals thrive in this harsh environment. Glades and glade species are becoming endangered throughout the state of Missouri because of the lack of natural disturbances and introduction of non-native species. At Rockwoods Reservation, we are taking active measures to preserve these extremely important areas.

Rockwoods Reservation has two glades: one on the Rock Quarry Trail and the other on the Trail Among the Trees. Both glades hold an enormous amount of wildlife and plant species. The populations of the species found in the glades are monitored throughout the year to determine the health of the restored glades. Because glades lack trees and their topsoil is minimal to nonexistent, species have adapted to these areas quite well. All of the plants are similar to prairie species because they contain deep, fibrous root systems and can tolerate very hot, dry climates. Many types of reptiles are found sunning themselves or hiding in the crevasses, like northern fence lizards, skinks, blue racers and the endangered timber rattlesnakes – which also use the rock cracks for dens in winter. Glades are one of the few places in the state to find the rarely seen Missouri tarantula and the striped scorpion.

MDC staff and volunteers have helped to preserve these habitats by controlling the invasive species and clearing out the glade of fallen leaves and noxious plants. Glade species are not adapted to having leaf litter cover the ground because trees are usually absent. Once a year the glades are raked or burned and tree saplings, the invasive buck brush and sumac are cut down to promote full wildflower blooms and spring grass production. Maintaining preservation practices at key times of the year will produce more diverse species in these endangered habitats.🐾

**Pick up your
FREE copy of the
CONSERVATION
Connections
at any St. Louis
Region Department
of Conservation
office today!**

Inside you will find:
~ *Fishing information*
~ *Shooting range programs*
~ *Conservation Education*
~ *Youth activities*
~ *Hunter education class schedule*
~ *Volunteer opportunities*
~ *Maps and more!*



**Attention
Curious Conservationists!**

Ever wonder if bats really *are* blind?
Or why some of our native Missouri ferns remain green in the winter?
Curious about the Christmas Bird Count numbers this year?
Kids and adults alike are invited to write in and “Ask the Naturalist” your conservation questions! You’ll not only be published in the newsletter, but you’ll also receive a gift from us!
Send your question to:
**Ask the Naturalist – Making Tracks
Department of Conservation
2360 Highway D
St. Charles, MO 63304**

**2751 Glencoe Road
Wildwood, MO 63038
(636) 458 - 2236**

LOCATION:

From I-44, take Hwy. 109 (Eureka exit) north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs.
From Hwy 40 (I-64), take Clarkson Road south to Manchester Road; right (west) on Manchester to Hwy. 109; left (south) on Hwy. 109, 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs.
From Manchester Road, take Hwy. 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs.

AREA HOURS:

Sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset.

VISITOR CENTER
HOURS:

Open seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., during March, April, May, June, September and October. The Visitor Center will be closed on weekends during July, August, November, December, January and February.

ABOUT THE AREA:

All facilities are free to the public, including:
*Education Center with exhibits and interpretive programs.
*1,898 acres of rugged, mostly hardwood, forested land interspersed with springs and streams.
*Three picnic areas (all with charcoal grills), two with drinking water, tables, and one with toilets.
*Seven trails (one is self-guided and wheelchair accessible) totaling more than 10 miles.

How to register for a MARCH program

Reservations are required unless otherwise specified. Reservations will be taken Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Programs are intended for individuals and families only. Please limit requests to two programs per month, with only one to include an Ages 3-6 program. **Please be prompt. Arrival after 10 minutes may exclude you from the program.** Interpreting services are available for people with hearing loss, with five days advance notice. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel your reservation as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Rockwoods ext. 22, Powder Valley ext. 2225 and Busch ext. 307.

ROCKWOODS

For reservations, call (636) 458 - 2236

1 St. Patrick Wreaths For Birds

Saturday 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
(Families) We'll make an early present for your feathered friends with lots of goodies for attracting a variety of them. This will be an indoor and outdoor program, so dress accordingly. Each family will make one wreath. (Reservations begin February 21.)

13 After School Special:

Cricketology

Thursday 3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.
(Ages 7-14) Jimmy Cricket, crickets are cool! Become a cricketologist during this intensive look at crickets. Bring a plastic jar with a lid to make a cricket condo. This program will be both indoors and outdoors; please dress for the weather. (Reservations begin February 27.)

15 Bluebird Condo

Saturday 10 a.m. – Noon
(Families) Learn about Missouri's state bird and build a nesting box to take home (one per family). Bring a hammer and Phillips screwdriver. This program is indoors. (Reservations begin February 28.)

21 Homeschool Special:

Aquatic Ecology

Friday 10 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 7-14) Spring is a time of rejuvenation, especially at the pond. We will investigate the new happenings in the pond and compare these activities and creatures to those in Hamilton Spring. This program will be outdoors and possibly muddy — dress for a mess! (Reservations begin March 7.)

26 Toddling Into Nature

Wednesday 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.
(Ages 3-6) Spring is not just a season but also a unique place where ground water comes to the surface. Join us as we explore our spring in the spring! Dress for the weather; this trail is mostly stroller inaccessible. (Reservations begin March 12.)

26 Glade Restoration

Wednesday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
(Ages 5 & up – Not stroller accessible) Where are scorpions, snakes and tarantulas found? Come explore the awesome glades at Rockwoods. We will be clearing the leaf litter and identifying the critters that we find in these diverse areas. Bring a rake and gloves; wear jeans and leather boots. This program is outdoors so dress for the weather. (Reservations begin March 12.)

Scout Discovery Table:

Conservation Careers

All Month: Monday – Sunday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
(Families) This is a self-guided table available to Scout groups throughout the month of March. This table will help with the badge requirements: **Bears:** Sharing your World With Wildlife (Achievement #5 c, d); **Juniors:** Let's Go Outdoors (Surroundings #7). No reservations are required.

JAY HENGES

SHOOTING RANGE & TRAINING CENTER

For reservations, call (636) 441-4554

8 Shotshell Reloading

Saturday 9 a.m. – Noon
Learn the basics of shotshell reloading. Topics will include shotshell reloading press selection, components, tools, reloading bench and cost benefits.

15 Youth Turkey Clinic

Saturday 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
(Ages 15 & up) Youth will cover Missouri turkey hunting regulations, firearms safety, turkey biology and habitat, turkey calling and more!

BUSCH AREA

For reservations, call (636) 441 - 4554

7 How to Paint Birds

Friday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Ages 7-12) So you've always wanted to learn how to draw animals but didn't have anyone to teach you? Your problem is solved! Join us to learn how to sketch and paint a bird from a model. (Reservations begin February 21.)

Scout Discovery Table

Endangered Species

Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(Brownies, Juniors, Bears) We know that the passenger pigeon is extinct and the bald eagle is threatened, but what about the wolf, bison and barn owl? Discover which animals are extinct, endangered and rare. **Bears:** Sharing Your World with Wildlife Achievement #5e; **Brownies:** Eco-explorer #5; **Juniors:** Wildlife #6. (No reservations required.)

8 Bluebirds!

Saturday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(All Ages) Learn about Missouri's state bird and then build a bluebird nest box to take home. One nest box per family/reservation. Please bring a hammer and screwdrivers. (Reservations begin February 21.)

11 It's Purple Martin Time!

Tuesday 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.
(Adults) Learn how you can enjoy these beautiful insect-eating swallows in your own backyard. We will talk about purple martins and then cover tips for establishing and managing your own colony. (Reservations begin February 25.)

15 Timber Doodles & Spring Peepers

Saturday 5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
(Ages 15 & up) Did you know early spring is the time of year when timber doodles and spring peepers are courting? What, you don't know what a timber doodle is? Then join us for a 1- to 2-mile hike and witness firsthand these thrilling spring events. Please dress for the weather; it could be very cold, but that won't stop the courting. (Reservations begin February 28.)

18 Nutty Squirrels!

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
& 11 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 3-6) Has winter got your preschoolers acting a bit squirrelly lately? Then bring them out to learn about these silly forest clowns. We'll make a squirrel craft and then take a short hike to look for squirrels. (Reservations begin March 4.)

24 Backyard Birds

Monday 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 3-6) Learn to identify six common backyard birds. Bring two empty toilet paper rolls per child for a fun craft project. Weather permitting, we will take a short hike to look for birds. (Reservations begin March 10.)



Getting Ready for

Spring Wildflowers

Saturday 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.
(Ages 15 & up) This program will give you a jump on learning your wildflowers. Pictures of common spring wildflowers will be shown to help you learn them for when they really do start blooming. (Reservations begin March 7.)

29 Nature Journaling

Saturday 10:30 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 11 & up) So many sensual signs of spring to absorb! How can they be remembered? Discover how to record them so the experience stays fresh and vibrant. Journaling materials provided. Dress for a short walk. (Reservations begin March 14.)

POWDER VALLEY

For reservations, call (314) 301 - 1500

3&24 Traveling the Lewis & Clark Trail

Monday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Adults) A volunteer naturalist will share his experience traveling the Lewis & Clark Trail. (Reservations begin February 17 and March 10, respectively.)

5 Beavers and Other Gnawers

Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
(Ages 3-6) Learn which animals have teeth sharp enough to cut through wood. (Reservations begin February 19.)

6 Let's Make A Bird House!

Thursday 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
(Ages 3-6) Learn about backyard birds and make a birdhouse to take home. (Reservations begin Feb. 20.)

12 For Goodness Snakes!

Wednesday 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
(All Ages) All snakes can be beneficial. Indoors we will look at a few live specimens and learn how to ID some of Missouri's most common members of the suborder *Serpentes*. Outdoors we will discuss which species prefer which habitats. Frontiers Connection: Portions of Activity #34. (Reservations begin February 26.)

13 Nature's Baby Boom

Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(All Ages) Learn about Powder Valley's youngest inhabitants. Introduction is indoors. Then we'll take a long outdoor hike to explore nature's youngest creatures. Dress for the weather. Frontiers Connection: Portions of Activity #25. (Reservations begin February 27.)

15 Lewis & Clark:

Supplies for Survival

Saturday 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Adults) The Corps of Discovery had do a lot of planning in order to survive their expedition into unknown territory. Put your skills to use and make tools needed for life in the early 1800s. (Reservations begin Feb. 28.)

15 Resident Artisans

Nancy and Laura Confer

Applehead Dolls 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

22 Owls

Saturday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Ages 7 & up) Learn about Missouri's owls. (Reservations begin March 7.)

22 Emmenegger Hike

Saturday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
(All Ages) Walk on the Emmenegger trails to see the early signs of spring. (Reservations begin March 7.)

23 Spring Equinox

Sunday 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.
(Ages 7-12) Learn why we have seasons. (Reservations begin March 10.)

HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS

28 Spring Tyke Hike

Friday 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Ages 3-6) Discover what's new outdoors at Powder Valley. (Reservations begin March 14.)

28 Spring Discovery Hike

Friday 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Ages 7-12) Discover what is popping out and up this spring. Hike the trail and look for signs of spring. (Reservations begin March 14.)

Children must be accompanied by an adult
Please dress for the weather.

ALL MONTH (Self-guided exhibit)

Scout Discovery Table: State Symbols

Every day 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

(All Ages) Learn about Missouri state symbols that are connected to the outdoors. Designed for **Junior Girl Scouts:** Let's Get Outdoors, Wildlife #1; **Wolves:** Your Flags, Achievement #2d; and **Bears:** What Makes America Special?, Achievement #3e. All are welcome and encouraged. Check it out! (No reservations necessary.)